

T H E
Unfortunate Lovers;
O R,
JOHN TRUE
A N D
SUSAN MEAD.



T E W K E S B U R Y :

Printed and Sold by S. HARWARD; Sold also at
his Shops in GLOUCESTER and CHELTENHAM;
where may be had all Sorts of New and Old
Songs; Penny Histories, &c. Wholesale and
Retail. Likewise the True Original Daffy's
Elixir, Bareman's Drops, Scotch Pills, and all
other Medicines of established reputation, that
are advertised in the weekly Papers.



T H E



Unfortunate Lovers, &c.



A TTEND, ye lovers, and give ear,
Unto this mournful song,
Of two that loved faithfully.
But did each other wrong.
At Coventry, in Warwickshire,
This young man he did dwell,
His name John True, a shoe-maker,
And lived very well.

At Borley-Moor this maiden dwelt,
Three miles from Coventry ;
Yet for the love he bore to her,
He would her often see.

And coming to her on a time,
He told to her his mind :

Susan, quoth he, I love thee dear,
Be not to me unkind.

If thou canst love and fancy me,

In heart and eke in mind :

I will prove loving unto thee,

Be not to me unkind.

Thy cheerful looks rejoice my heart,

And merry make my mind.

Sweet Susan, then love me again,

Be not to me unkind.

Good John, I thank you for your love,
 And wish you at home to tarry :
 I am too young for to be wed,
 And have no will to marry.

Where thou livest are maidens store,
 Most beautiful and free,
 Henceforth set not vain love on me,
 For I cannot love thee.

This answer struck him to the heart,
 As cold as any stone :
 So homewards strait he did return,
 With many a bitter groan.

Wishing that he had ne'er been born,
 Or in his cradle dy'd.
 Unhappy man to love so true,
 And yet to be deny'd.

Quoth he, I'll go to her again,
 And hear what she doth say,
 It may be she may be more kind,
 Tho' first she said me nay.

So going to the town again,
 He sent for her straitway,
 Desiring her to speak to him,
 But still she said him nay.

Then did he sigh, lament, and grieve,
 And knew not what to say ;
 So did he take his pen in hand,
 And wrote these words straitway :

My heart's delight and only joy,
 Kill me not with disdain;
 Vouchsafe that I may speak to thee,
 To rid me of my pain.

Resolve me, sweetest, I thee pray,

Why is thy hatred such ?

I know no cause, except it be

For loving thee too much.

As is my name, true is my love,

Sweet Susan, unto thee :

True is my name. true is my love,

And evermore shall be.

My love is honest, just and good,

Kill me not with disdain ;

Rather do me the courtesy,

To love for love again.

When she had read and understood

His mind and his intent,

She then began to like and love,

And grant his heart's content.

John, I am thine, if thou art mine,

For ever and for aye.

It was to try thy constancy,

That I did say thee nay.

But here's my hand, hear and love,

I'll ne'er more thee deny,

My love is constant, firm, and true,

And shall be till I die.

They then embrac'd each other's love,

And join'd in heart and voice,

That she of him, and he of her,

Had made so sweet a choice.

But fortune that doth often frown,

Where she before did smile,

The man's delight, the maiden's joy,

Full soon she did beguile.

When she was settled in her love,
 Then he would change her mind,
 And for to try her constancy,
 Would be to her unkind.

And thus resolved in his mind,
 He'd go to her no more;
 But went and woo'd another maid,
 Which griev'd her heart full sore.

Quoth he, she proved unto me,
 Hard hearted and unkind:
 But now her true love I have won
 I'll bear the self-same mind.

When she perceiv'd his love to her,
 Not as it was wont to be,
 She did lament, sigh, weep, and grieve,
 And these words said she:

False-hearted wretch, adieu, quoth she,
 Disloyal and unkind.

And if I die for love of thee,
 Thou shalt not know my mind.

Woe to the time I did believe
 That flattering tongue of thine;
 Would to God I ne'er had seen,
 The tears of those false eyes.

Hard hap I had to set my love
 On one that mocketh me,
 Sure all the country did not yield,
 A man so false as he.

Thus she was brought to mean estate,
 All comfort from her fled,
 She did desire to speak with him,
 Before that she was dead.

Her friends did seek to cheer her up,
 And to make glad her mind :
 But she was kill'd for looing him,
 Who was to her unkind.

Falſe-hearted man; may never maid
 Love thee as I have done,
 But may my death remember'd be,
 To time that is to come.

But may all maids a warning take,
 By this my mournful death,
 And now, O Lord ! receive my ſoul,
 To thee I give my breath :

Thus died the pattern of true love,
 Thus died a virtuous maid,
 Thus died a good and harmleſs laſs,
 As ever love betray'd.

Six maids in white, as cuſtom is,
 Did bear her to her grave,
 Her parents grieve, lament and mourn,
 No child at all they have.

When as her lover underſtood,
 For love that ſhe was dead ;
 He rag'd, and ready was to tear
 The hair from off his head.

But when he came unto the place,
 Where his true lover lay,
 He ſtraitway run unto the grave,
 And there theſe words did ſay :

Suſan, quoth he, I'll kiſs thy grave,
 Upon my beaded knee ;
 Whereby I'll ſhow to all the world,
 How much I did love thee.

(7 8)
And as he lay upon the ground,
He heard the voice to say,
John True, if ever thou lov'st me,
Make haste and come away.

Then started he up from the grave,
And stood like one struck dumb;
And when he had regain'd his speech,
He said, I come, I come.

And thus like one out of his wits,
He rag'd in furious sort;
That all the neighbours round about
Were griev'd at the report.

And thus in sorrow and grief of heart,
He lay a whole fortnight;
And when he had confess'd his fault,
He yielded up his spirit.

According to his heart's desire,

And as he did request,
They dug his grave and laid him down,
By her whom he lov'd best.

You young men all that have true love,
But true unto your friend,
And if you love, be sure you love,
Be true unto the end.

And thus I end my story true,
So full of grief and woe;
May never any such again,
To wrong any other so.

OLD SONGS,

Printed and Sold by S. HARWARD.

Children in the Wood
Seven Champions of
Christendom
Cat-Skin
Death and the Lady
Twenty-seven Songs of
Robin Hood
Poor Robin's Dream
Plymouth Tragedy; or,
Susan's Overthrow
Pretty Green Coat Boy
Squire Vernon's Fox-
Chace
Famous Flower of Serv-
ing Men
Wandering Prince of
Troy
Choice Pennyworth of
Wit
Yarmouth Tragedy
Golden Bull
Jane Shore
Oxford Ramble
Dorsetshire Miracle
Transported Felons
Teague's Ramble
Spanish Lady's Love to
an English Captain
Northern Knight's Gar-
land

Leeds Tragedy; or, The
Bloody Brother
Humours of Rag Fair
Glocestershire Tragedy
Distrest Lady's Garland
Chevy Chace
Bloody Gardener
Berkshire Lady
Wandering Shepherd
Factor's Garland
Broken Contract
Bite upon Bite
Blind Beggar of Beth-
nal-Green
Bristol Bridegroom; or
The Ship Carpenter's
Love to the Merchant's
Daughter
Anacreon's Feast
Death of Sir Andrew
Barton
New Mad Tom
Cobler's wife's discovery
Disobedient Son and
Cruel Husband
Somersetshire Tragedy
Welch Wedding
Lamentable Ballad of
the Lady's Fall
Fair Maudlin